recommendations of the Committee, these are under preparation in the Planning Commission. Therefore, Sir, all these matters are going to be considered when the Committee meets and takes a final decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Funds Under national child labour Project for Maharashtra

*121. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have been submitting project-proposals for Child Labour Education and Rehabilitation, under the National Child Labour Project;

(b) if so, the number of child labour to be covered and the amount of Central aid sought for the same during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 and the current year, and the aid granted against each request;

(c) whether there were undue delays in clearance of the proposals and giving grants-in-aid; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K.CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The State Government of Maharashtra has been submitting proposals for child labour education and rehabilitation under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP). Proposals for 15 districts for opening of NCPLs from the State have been received between 2000 and 2004.

The NCLPs are selected by the Ministry of Labour on the basis of the endemicity of child labour as per the census data. 100 districts were selected under the 9th Plan. The Project has subsequently been expanded in the 10th Plan to a total of 250 districts in the country, based on the census figures of 2001.

Maharashtra had 2 districts, namely, Solapur and Thane, under the NCLP Scheme in the 9th Plan. 11 more districts namely, Nanded, Nasik, Yavatmali, Dhule, Beed, Pune, Ahmadnagar, Sangli, Kolhapur, Jalgaon

and Nandurbar have been included in the NCLP Scheme during the 10th Plan. The concerned districts have been informed and requested to initiate the process for implementation of the Scheme. 7 districts out of the 15 proposals received from the State have qualified to be covered under the NCLP. Out of the remaining 8 proposals, 3 districts have been taken up under the INDUS Child Labour Elirnination Programme, namely, Aurangabad, Amravati and Jalna. All the above districts have been requested to intimate the number of children engaged as child labour so that the financial releases to the districts can be finalized.

(c) and (d) There have been no delays in chearing the project proposals.

Provision of Phones by Public Sector Companies

*124. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the share of Public Sector companies in providing phones in the last three years has declined;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Public Sector companies have been asked to provide 10 to 15 crore phones lines in next three years; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Public Sector Companies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The overall share of the Public Sector companies has declined from 84.98% in March, 2002 to 56% in October, 2004. However, it is further noted that while the share of PSUs in fixed phones has decreased from 98.65% to 91.39%, in the mobile segment their share has increased from 3.98% to 20.21% during this period.

(b) The decline in the overall share has been because of the increasing competition and greater participation of the private operators providing telecom services.

(c) No, Sir. The target of additional 10 crore to 15 crore phones is a projected target for both public and private sector operators by 2007.

(d) It is expected that the public sector companies will contribute a substantial share of this target. Tentatively, it has been planned that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.